

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 PC-01

OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13 SCA-01 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /111 W

-----101234Z 123598 /10

R 101135Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) ASMARA 0084 (DTG 031225Z FEB 77), (B) ASMARA 0095 (DTG 071235Z FEB 77), (C) ASMARA 0053 (DTG 241325Z JAN 77)(NOTAL)

1. THE FIGHTING AT ELABERET (REF A) IS CONTINUING, AND INSURGENT PRESSURE REPORTEDLY HAS RESULTED IN DECISION BY EPMG AUTHORITIES TO ABANDON THE PLANTATION. ACCORDING TO A REPORT, WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE ORIGINATED WITH THE MANAGER OF THE PLANTATION, THE INSURGENTS HAVE NOW BURNED THE ORCHARDS AND MUCH OF THE VEGETABLE

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CROPS. THE IRRIGATION AND RESERVOIR SYSTEM IS SAID TO BE LARGELY DESTROYED AND THE DAIRY HERD WAS RELEASED BY THE EPMG TROOPS AS THERE WAS NO WATER OR FODDER FOR THEM. THE DECISION TO ABANDON THE ESTATE WAS REPORTEDLY MADE ON FEB 8 AND THE WITHDRAWAL WILL BEGIN FEB 10.

2. MORE EPMG TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT ARRIVED IN ASMARA DURING THE EARLY

PART OF THE SECOND WEEK IN FEBRUARY. SOME 75 MORE COMMANDO POLICE (CP) WERE SEEN ARRIVING BY AIR AND BEING TRANSPORTED TO FORMER KAGNEW TRACT CHARLIE. THESE CPS, LIKE THOSE WHO ARRIVED ON FEB 5 (REF B), HAD NEW UNIFORMS AND NEW SKS CARBINES. EQUIVALENT OF EIGHT TRUCKLOADS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES ALSO ARRIVED BY AIR FOR SECOND DIVISION. HALF OF THE SUPPLIES WERE SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION, THE REST BEING MOSTLY C-RATIONS.

3. COLONEL ALEMAYEHU DESTA, C.O. OF THE SECOND DIVISION, IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO STILL BE IN ADDIS (REF C) SUFFERING FROM A CHRONIC BACK AILMENT. THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS PROBLEM IS SUCH THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL BE MEDEVACED TO EUROPE FOR TREATMENT. IN HIS ABSENCE, THE DEPUTY COMMANDER, FNU NEGASH IS ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN THE COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF THE EPMG FORCES IN ERITREA. IN THIS TASK HE NOTABLY LACKS ALEMAYEHU'S INTELLIGENCE AND STATURE IN THE EYES OF THE TROOPS. ALEMAYEHU, ALTHOUGH ALWAYS DIRECT AND OCCASIONALLY HARSH, APPARENTLY ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE RESPECT AMONG EPMG FORCES IN THE REGION.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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